

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS: CALOGERAS-STEARNES

MEETING ON APRIL 25

REF: A. ATHENS 3175; B. ATHENS 3155

1. AT THE REQUEST OF AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS, HE AND STEARNES MET INFORMALLY THIS NOON TO DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT OR STATEMENTS TO BE MADE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND ROUND. CALOGERAS INDICATED THAT THE GREEK SIDE CONTINUED TO PREFER THAT THERE BE A SINGLE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER, ALTHOUGH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS WOULD HAVE TO MEET US APPROVAL. STEARNES STATED THAT THIS SEEMED TO HIM AN IMPRACTICAL AND EVEN ILLOGICAL APPROACH. WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE HE WOULD BE ADDRESSING A DOMESTIC AUDIENCE AND HIS REMARKS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE TAILORED TO SUIT HIS POLITICAL CONVENIENCE. THAT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE AND US SPOKESMAN MIGHT ALSO HAVE OCCASION TO START OUR OWN INTERPRETATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A DOMESTIC AMERICAN AUDIENCE. WHILE THE TONE OF US AND GREEK OFFICIAL COMMENTS MIGHT DIFFER, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ASSURE THAT THEY WERE BROADLY CONSISTENT AND IN NO WAY CONTRADICTORY. THIS SUGGESTED TO STEARNES THAT A JOINT COMMUNIQUE OR ANNOUNCEMENT WAS DESIRABLE SINCE IT WOULD PROVIDE A COMMON FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND WOULD REFLECT MUTUAL OBJECTIVES.

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2. CALOGERAS SAID THAT THE DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE (REF. B),

WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HIM BY THE AMERICAN SIDE DID NOT REPEAT NOT MEET GREEK NEEDS. THE GREEK SIDE, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD WISH TO REFERR TO THE CLOSING OF THE AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE (ATO) AT TATOI AND WOULD ALSO WISH TO STATE THAT THE DRAFT TEXT OF A NEW UMBRELLA AGREEMENT GOVERNING US-GREEK MILITARY COOPERATION HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE US SIDE. STEARNS REPLIED THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THE DRAFT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WAS A UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE GREEK SIDE SINCE WE HAD STATED CLEAR RESERVATIONS TO THIS APPROACH AND HAD UNDERTAKEN TO DO NOTHING MORE THAN STUDY THE GREEK DRAFT. AS FAR AS TATOI WAS CONCERNED, STEARNS POINTED OUT THAT THE LAST MINUTE INTRODUCTION OF THE TATOI FACILITY HAD STALLED THE ENTIRE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. AS HE HAD TOLD CALOGEFAS EARLIER, HE WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT ANY DECISION COULD BE REACHED BY WASHINGTON WITHOUT CAREFUL AND PROTRACTED STUDY. IT WAS, THEREFORE, PREMATURE TO THINK ABOUT INCLUDING ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO TATOI IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT. FURTHERMORE, STEARNS COULD NOT REPEAT NOT SEE THE LOGIC OF ATTEMPTING TO BRACKET THE CIVILIAN FACILITY AT TATOI WITH MUCH LARGER FACILITIES AT ELEFSIS AND HELLINIKON, WHICH CALOGERAS SEEMED TO BE DOING BY SINGLING OUTT TATOI FOR SPECIAL MENTION. STEARNS CONTINUED TO BELEIVE THAT THE TATOI QUESTION SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OUTISDE THE CONTEXT OF ROUND II. HE REMINDED CALOGERAS THAT IN THE FOURTH PLENARY HE HAD MENTIONED SMALL FACILITIES LIKE THE LORAN MONITORING STATION ON RHODES AND HAD SAID THAT AGREEMENT MIGHT BE REACHED TO ELIMINATE ONE OR MORE OF THESE. THEREFORE, IF THE GREEKS WISHED THE PUBLIC STATEMENT TO REFER TO THE ELIMINATION OF FACILITIES OUTISDE ELEFSIS AND HELLINIKON, THE REFERENCE SHOUD BE VAGUE AND GENERAL. STEARNS SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK AGAIN AT THE DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE HAD HANDED TO CALOGERAS AT THE FOURTH PLENARY AND SEE IF IT COULD BE COMPRESSED AND SIMPLIFIED.

3. CALOGERAS SAID THAT THE GREEK SIDE STILL PREFERRED THE APPROACH HE HAD OUTLINED BUT THAT HE HAD TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF STEARNS' REACTION TO IT. HE WOULD SPEAK AGAIN WITH BITSIOS AND SEE WHETHER THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD AGREE TO A BRIEF JOINT STATEMENT. HE AND STEARNS AGREED THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE FIFTH PLENARY SESSION COULD NOT BE HELD BEFORE

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MONDAY, APRIL 28 AND THAT THEY WOULD NEET AGAIN INFORMALLY TOMORROW, APRIL 26. AT THAT TIME STEARNS WOULD INFORMALLY PROVIDE CALOGERAS WITH A NEW AND SHORTER DRAFT OF A POSSIBLE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OR JOINT STATEMENT.

4. COMMENT: WE WOULD PREFER NO REPEAT NO STATEMENT AT ALL TO THE APPROACH PROPOSED BY CALOGERAS. WHAT CARAMANLIS SAYS IN PARLIAMENT ABOUT US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS IS, IN THE LAST

ANALYSIS, UP TO HIM AND HE IS A SHREWD AND REALISTIC ENOUGH POLITICIAN TO AVOID MISREPRESENTING THE AGREEMENTS WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING. NEVERTHELESS, WE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE IN THE POSITION OF ALLOWING THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER TO ACT AS OUR SPOKESMAN ON SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. IF THE GREEKS CONTINUE TO REJECT THE IDEA OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ISSUE OUR OWN STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON. THE PROSPECT OF OUR DOING THIS SHOULD ASSURE THAT STATEMENTS MADE BY THE GREEK SIDE ACCURATELY REPRESENT THE RESULTS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE. IT MAY ALSO BE ENOUGH TO CONVINCE THE GREEKS OF THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A JOINT STATEMENT.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING DRAFT TEXT OF A "COMPRESSED" JOINT STATEMENT, WHICH STEARNS WILL SHOW INFORMALLY TO CALOGERAS TOMORROW: BEGIN TEXT.

DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES MET IN ATHENS APRIL 7 - (DATE OF FINAL PLENARY) FOR A SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING MUTUAL DEFENSE MATTERS. THE GREEK AND UNITED STATES DELEGATIONS, LED RESPECTIVELY BY AMBASSADOR PETROS CALOGERAS AND MINISTER MONTEAGLE STEARNS, DISCUSSED ALL ASPECTS OF GREEK-US MILITARY COOPERATION. AMONG THE DECISIONS REACHED WERE THE FOLLOWING:

THE UNITED STATES ACCEDED TO A GREEK REQUEST THAT US NAVAL FORCES NOW STATIONED IN ELEFSIS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE ATHENS AREA BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES, THUS TERMINATING THE HOMEPORTING PROGRAM IN GREECE. DISPOSITION OF PHYSICAL PROPERTY CONSTRUCTED AND USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE HOMEPORTING PROGRAM WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUING DISCUSSION AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL.

THE US BASE AT HELLINIKON WILL BE CLOSED. CERTAIN US FACILITIES DEEMED TO CONTRIBUTE TO GREEK DEFENSE NEEDS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON THE GREEK AIR FORCE BASE AT HELLINIKON.

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FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL TO REMAIN, AND OTHER DETAILS RELATED TO THE DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL.

AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED ON THE ELIMINATION, REDUCTION AND CONSOLIDATION OF OTHER LESS SIGNIFICANT US FACILITIES IN GREECE.

A THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS ANTICIPATED, THOUGH THE DATE WILL DEPEND UPON THE PROGRESS OF TALKS AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL AND ON THE OUTCOME OF GREECE'S FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US AND ITS OTHER ALLIES IN NATO. END TEXT
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